

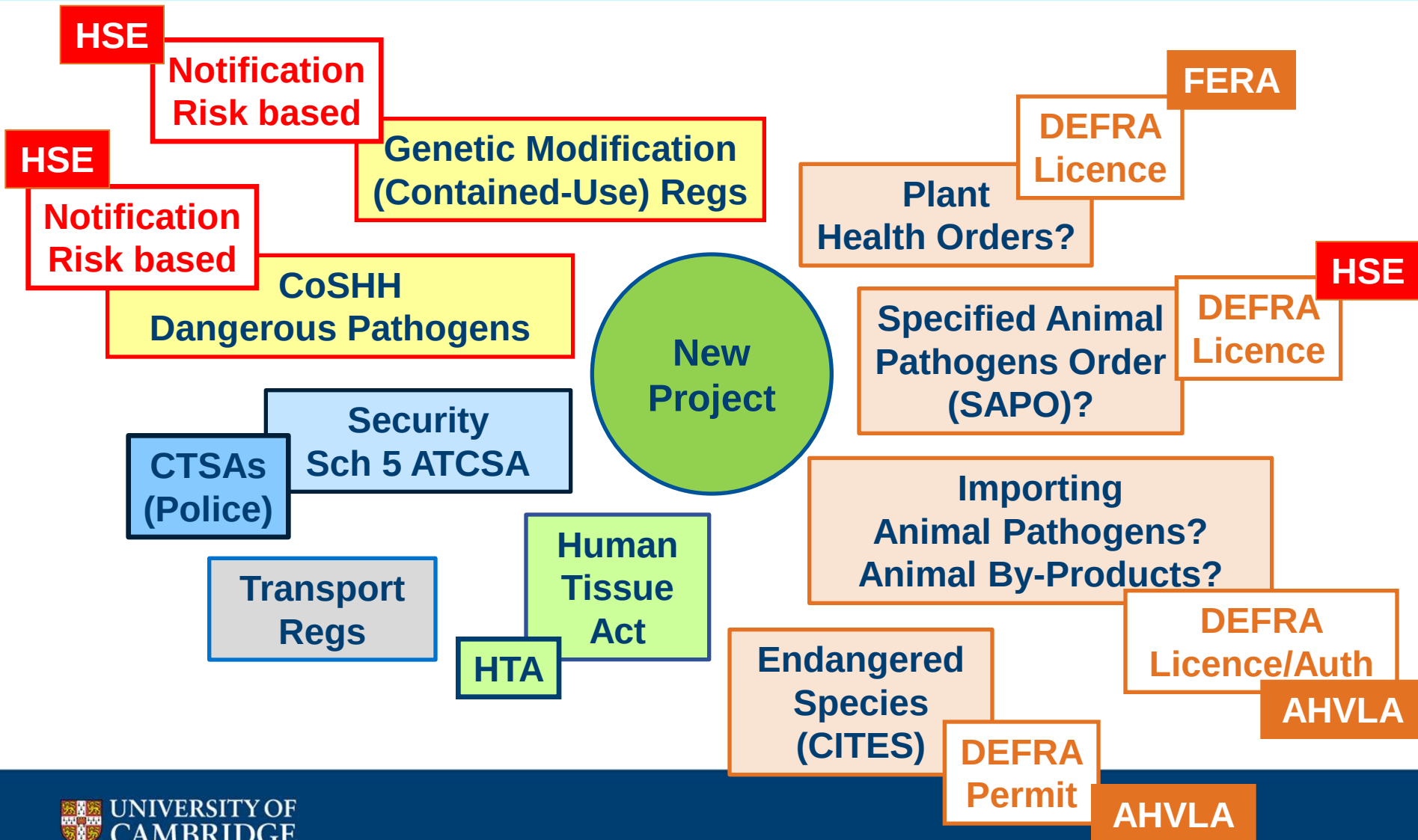
DEFRA, FERA and SAPO

What is Expected of a BSO?

Biological Safety Officers' Event 10 May 2011

Mark Elsdon – School of the Biological Sciences Safety Officer

Biologicals: There's a lot for Depts. to think about!



What is DEFRA?



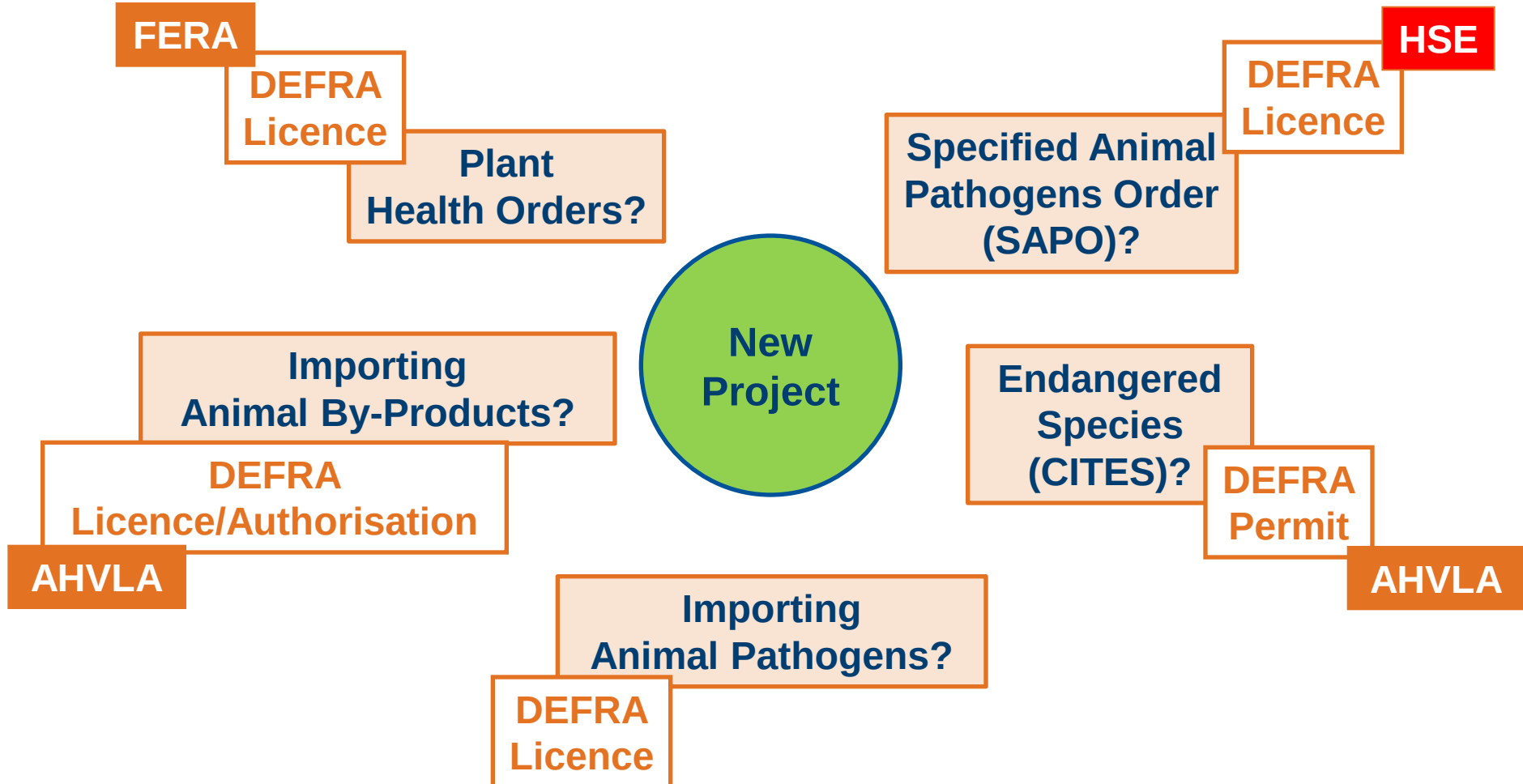
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Government department

Responsible for

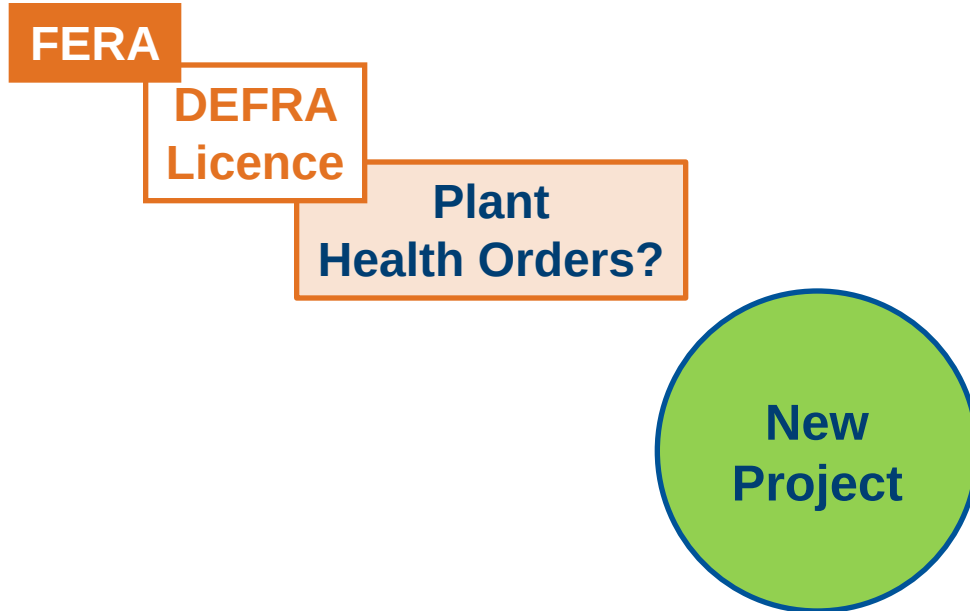
- Environmental protection
- Food productions and standards
- Agriculture, fisheries and rural communities
- **Issues a range of Licences/Authorisations/Permits!**



DEFRA & Biologicals: There's a lot to think about!



DEFRA / FERA & Plant Health



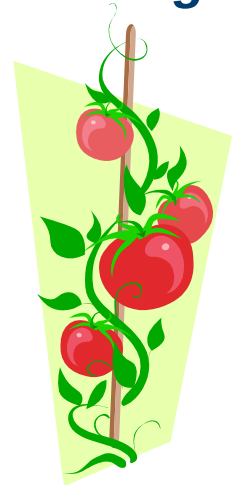
What is FERA?



The Food & Environment Research Agency

A new EXECUTIVE AGENCY of Defra (April '09)

'Established to support & develop a sustainable food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks'



FERA & Plant Health

FERA

DEFRA
Licence

Plant
Pathogen

New
Project



The Plant Health (England) Order 2005 / (Wales) Order 2006

Non-indigenous plant pests/pathogens and other materials (e.g. soils) require a licence. - **Check with FERA!**

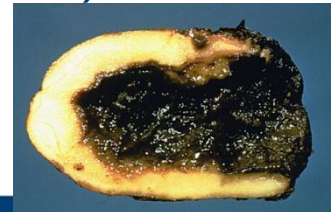
Licence to Import, Move & Keep Prohibited Plant Pathogens

- Names 'Person(s) responsible'
- Specifies licensed material
- Containment reqs and work areas
- Destruction of pathogens and waste – very specific!

Annual Inspection & Review - FERA inspector: Sue Lacey

Examples (*Nb non-indigenous strains*)

- *Erwinia carotovora* (Soft rot/black leg in potatoes)
- Tomato Bushy Stunt Virus
- Turnip Crinkle Virus
- Cucumber Mosaic Virus



FERA & Plant Health

FERA

DEFRA
Licence

Plant
Pathogen

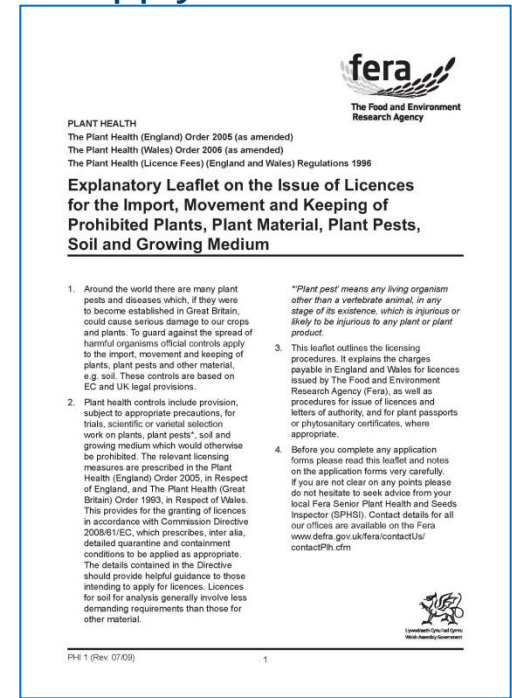
New
Project



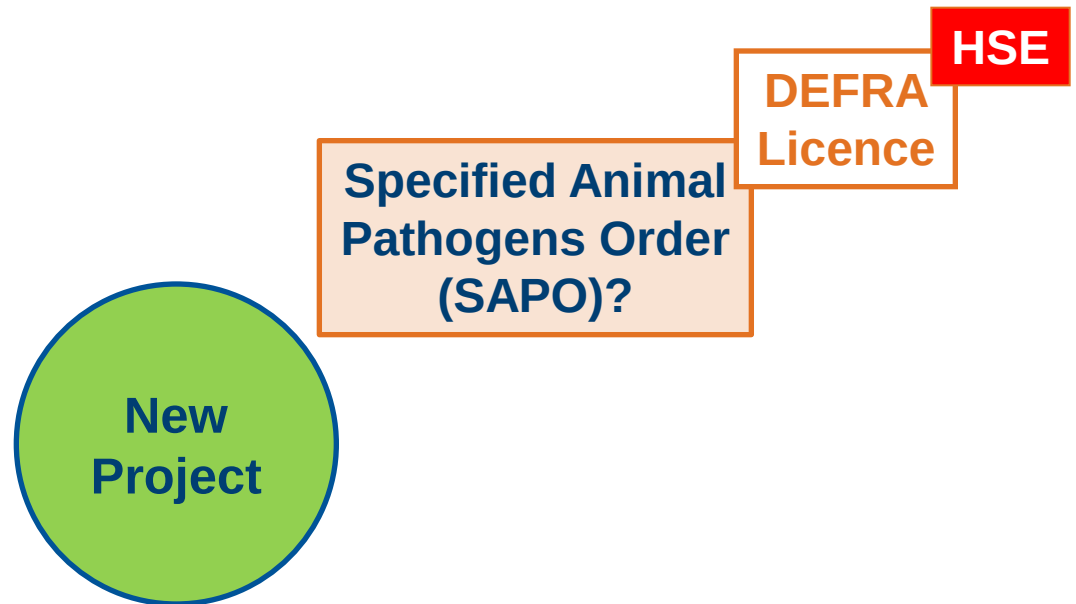
- Keep records of licensed activities, monitor compliance
- Report at Biological Safety Committee
- Don't forget – CoSHH, GMO(CU) etc still apply

Explanatory Leaflet on the Issue of Licences for the Import, Movement and Keeping of Prohibited Plants, Plant Material, Plant Pests, Soil and Growing Medium

<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/forms/documents/plantHealth/DEF-PHI1-FERA-1.pdf>



DEFRA & Biologicals: There's a lot to think about!



What is SAPO?

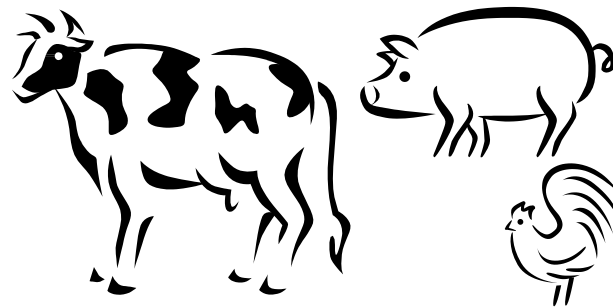
The Specified Animal Pathogens Order 2008 (Animal Health Act 1981)

- **Purpose** – prevent introduction & spread of pathogens which could cause serious disease/economic loss to British Livestock/Poultry industries
- **List of pathogens** appear in the Schedule to the Order
- **Includes GM and attenuated SAPs and nucleic acids** from SAPs if introduced into another biological system and capable of replication



Examples:

- Trypanosoma brucei
- Bacillus anthracis
- Bluetongue virus



The SAPO Licence

- **Applications** made to DEFRA > HSE > DEFRA
- **Inspected/enforced** by HSE (2008: HSE now regulates human & animal pathogens following FMD Pirbright '07)
- Single SAPO licence for the University.
- Dr Martin Vinnell – 'Nominated Licence Holder'
- Dept SAPO licences appear as an annex in main licence (x3)
- Wish to work with SAPOs? **Notify Safety Office first!**



The SAPO Licence

The Defra Animal Health Act 1981 SAPO 2008 Licence

- **Names** Licensee/Supervisor
- **Identifies** specific pathogen/carriers that can be held
- **Containment reqs** and specifies lab areas
- **Destruction** of pathogens and waste – very specific!
- **Valid** ~5 years
- **Expiry date!**
Criminal offence to hold SAPOs without valid licence!
- **Inspection & review** by HSE anytime & prior to renewal
- **Other regs** may still apply – e.g GMO(CU), CoSHH etc

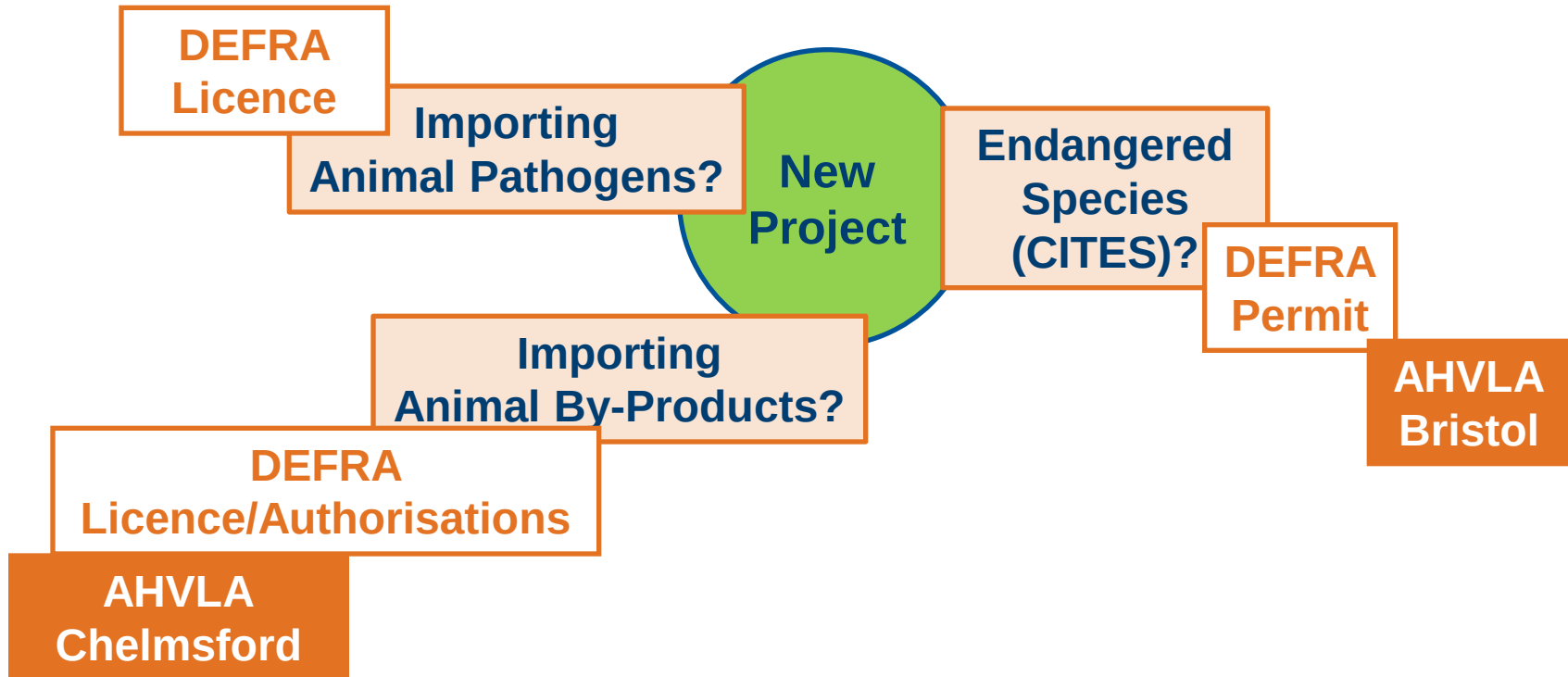


Licensed Activities & BSOs

- Unlike work with Dangerous Pathogens (CoSHH) or work with GMOs, licensed activities are not strictly risk based.
- Little flexibility. – strict!
- **Do EXACTLY what the licence & approved SOPs say!**
- BSOs should be **AWARE** of licensed activities and controls
- **Monitor** compliance
- Ensure detailed **records** are being maintained
- Discuss at **Biological Safety Committee**
- **Notify** Safety Office / School Safety Officers of any Planned/Unplanned visits from Inspectors



DEFRA Import Licenses – VERY briefly!!!



DEFRA Import Licenses



Importation of Animal Pathogens Order 1980 (IAPO)

- Prohibits importation into England from a third country of any animal pathogen or carrier except under the authority of a licence.
- Apply direct to Defra 'Pathogens Licensing Team'

Contact info

Pathogens Licensing Team

Defra

London SW1P 3JR.

Telephone No. 020 7238 6211/6195

Email: pathogens@defra.gsi.gov.uk

What is AHVLA?



Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency

A new EXECUTIVE AGENCY of Defra (April '11)

- *Safeguarding animal health & welfare & public health*
- *Food security through research, surveillance and inspection*

Global responsibilities

- *Reference lab for exotic and notifiable diseases*
- *Protecting **CITES** (**C**onvention on **I**nternational **T**rade in **E**ndangered **S**pecies) through wildlife registration and licencing role*

DEFRA Import Licences



The Animal By-Products Regulations 2011

- Licences/Authorisations required to import certain animals/products of animal origin
- “**General**” licences /authorisations on Defra website
- “**Specific**” licences must be applied for if material not in GL

Contact info

International Trade Centre for Imports

Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Chelmsford

Tel 01245 454860

Email: AHITChelmsford@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

DEFRA Import Licenses



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

- EU CITES list >25,000 species animals & plants protected
- “Parts and derivatives” too!
- e.g. Importation elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) tissue samples

Contact info

Wildlife Licensing & Registration Service (WLRS)

AHVLA Bristol

Email: wildlife.licensing@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

Web: <http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/cites>

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